

Colerne Parish Council
Result of the Playing Field Consultation
Conducted between 11th October and midnight Friday 16th November 2018
Paper for the Parish Council meeting on 4th December 2018

Introduction

This paper is provided for information. A follow up paper with recommendations for discussion, including the increase in the precept, will be tabled at the Council meeting on 18th December.

1. Background

This is shown in the Business Plan at Annex 1 and was reviewed by the Council on 6th February 2018. This was an open meeting that members of the public could attend and was advertised on the Parish notice boards, as are all Council meetings. At that meeting the following was agreed;

- 1.1. That the impact of the proposal would be a one-off precept rise in 2019 of 5.0% over and above inflation, made up of £1926 financing cost and £748 additional running costs. This is a weekly increase of 6 pence for each household in the Parish.
- 1.2. That this one-off increase should be subject of a referendum along the lines of,

Do you agree that the precept should rise by 6 pence a week over inflation in 2019 to contribute to the £61,000 cost of extending the Playing Fields and additional running costs?

The Business Plan has been on the Council website since the beginning of the consultation with copies in the Council office in the Old School in Vicarage Lane.

2. Actions taken to advertise the consultation.

- 2.1. Entries were made in the Parish Magazine in April and May. This was followed up in October stating that the consultation would start in October, this is shown at Annex 2. Annex 3 shows the entry in the November magazine which also included a form which could be used for voting and comments.
- 2.2. Annex 4 shows the Council website with links to the Business Plan and a voting button.
- 2.3. Over 80 posters were put up on lamp posts and given to communal areas (the school, playgroup, clubs, shops, the pavilion and pubs) This poster is shown at Annex 5.
- 2.4. Flyers were placed in the communal areas with a form that could be used for voting on the reverse. This is shown at Annex 6.
- 2.5. Information was added to Facebook Colerne Community pages with regular comments.
- 2.6. During the last week of the consultation an additional flyer was delivered throughout the community. This is shown at Annex 7.

3. Results

- 3.1. Number received in total 413
- 3.2. Number received electronically 300
- 3.3. Number received on forms 113

The results for all respondees;

Supported the purchase of the land			Supported the purchase and the additional 6p a week on the precept		
Yes	351	85%	Yes/Yes	331	80%
No	62	15%			
Total	413				

The results for those who responded on forms;

Supported the purchase of the land			Supported the purchase and the additional 6p a week on the precept		
Yes	82	72%	Yes/Yes	77	68%
No	31	18%			
Total	113				

One respondent complained about being able to vote three times, two responses from that person have been deleted.

Another asked if MoD personal in quarters on the camp should be able to vote as they do not pay Council Tax. The way this works is that MoD negotiates a rate for married quarters and other accommodation and pays that sum to Wiltshire Council. This then flows into the Council precept (the local Council Tax). This covers 232 MoD properties in Colerne. How the MoD recovers that money from their tenants is their decision. Therefore, the answer is that they can vote.

Ten online and eight paper responses were received after the consultation was closed. These were excluded from the statistics shown.

4. Summary of comments.

Responses are given here where multiple respondents have made similar comments, these should be read in the context of the Business Plan.

4.1. Comments from respondents that support the proposal;

4.1.1. Will the Council consult on what should be on the new playing fields?

Many suggestions have been made in the responses. These will be collated, and the community consulted once the purchase has been completed.

4.1.2. Encouraging children and adults to take healthy exercise is vital, what will be done to help make this happen?

The Business Plan puts forward the suggestion of a Community Sports Association which will become responsible for the management and use of the playing fields. This would enable community involvement to encourage use with financial support from the Council. As one response said 'A brilliant way to get all ages away from "screens" to join outdoor pursuits.

4.1.3. Will the recreation ground close?

No. The village needs this additional capacity for existing sports and for some of the exciting possibilities mentioned in the responses.

4.1.4. Looking ahead Colerne is likely to grow.

One response was that 'With the village bound to expand, maybe substantially, this represents foresight into future needs. Another that 'I hope it goes ahead at a time when many Councils are selling off their playing fields'. Projects like this one must be planned ahead. It is unusual for land like this close to the village to become available. If this purchase does not happen there may never be another opportunity.

4.1.5. When will it be opening?

The consultation is the first step. We now must get planning approval and complete the purchase. Then the ground has to be prepared and any demands made by the planners satisfied. We will do this as quickly as possible but it's difficult to be precise about a completion date.

4.1.6. Don't forget North Colerne

We won't. The response was 'It would be useful to make North Colerne accessible to the whole village if a safe, lit cycle path through could be erected as accessing village facilities on their own steam is currently very dangerous using the fast country road into the village. This would help to connect the whole village and would be useful for those avoiding car use travelling to the school'. This need is recognised in and is part of the Neighbourhood Plan that is being prepared after an extensive consultation.

4.1.7. As there are problems with the maintenance on the recreation ground why do you think you can handle another playing field?

Any problems should be notified to the Council. There are regular safety visits to ensure all the equipment is fit for purpose. We know there have been problem with the roundabout recently. The equipment is obsolete, so we have been trying to find a source of spares, the alternative of a new unit is very expensive. We expect this problem to be fixed soon.

4.1.8. Parking and access

Several comments have been made such as 'Please ensure enough funds are set aside to maintain adequate parking and access'. The Council is aware of these issues, they will be addressed in the planning application.

4.1.9. Pedestrian access

The path from Silver Street to the recreation ground has been a real success and is much used. The Council recognises the need for improved access to the Rugby Ground and the new playing field for those on foot. There have been improvements to the paths over the years that have made the trip safer, but the Council recognises that there is more to be done. The school has recently prepared a 'Safe Routes to School' plan with Wiltshire Council that should help with suggested improvements.

4.1.10. How do you know I am a resident of the village?

We don't, but we would question why anyone not living here would wish to vote for a project in Colerne. It doesn't seem to make sense. If the vote was marginal this might be an issue, but it isn't.

4.1.11. If we are going to do this the requirement for the facilities needs to be properly scoped and they need to be used for their purpose. I recall a few years ago money was spent to reassign the tennis court at the recreation ground to a netball court for use by a team. This never happened, and the facility would be nice if the council would consult on what amenities the community would like to see generally and whether we'd pay extra for those. The precept is small, and I would be willing to pay a bit more and have a choice of other options offered too.

Many suggestions have been made in the responses. These will be collated, and the community consulted once the purchase has been completed. The Business Plan puts forward the suggestion of a Community Sports Association which will become responsible for the management and use of the playing fields.

4.1.12. Will this precept be for one year or will stay on our Council Tax?

It would be for 25 years or until the loan part is paid off. Full details of the financial arrangements are shown in the Business Plan.

4.2. Comments from respondents that do not support the proposal.

4.2.1. The Business Plan shows no allowance for parking and this will be dangerous. No access for the ground is allowed for.

The Council is aware of these issues, they will be addressed in the planning application.

4.2.2. There is a lack of information regarding this project.

The Business Plan gives these details. This is shown on the Parish Council website and copies are available from the Parish Office in Vicarage Lane. The actions taken to advertise the consultation were extensive and are shown earlier in this report.

4.2.3. The current sports facilities are under-utilized as it is, crazy to add more. 'The Skate Park is not used, and we can't see the extra facilities being used either'. 'The boules court hardly gets used'.

The skatepark and the boules court were funded by grants not by the Council. Many sports are seasonal, so the facilities are not used all year round so may appear underutilised.

4.2.4. Will the present recreation ground be retained?

Yes. The village needs this additional capacity for existing sports and for some of the exciting possibilities mentioned in the responses.

4.2.5. Can you tell how many times someone votes?

Any poll is dependent on the integrity and honesty of the residents in that Community. The Council has a view that Colerne residents would not wish to distort the results by voting in this way. The alternative would have been to get Wiltshire Council to conduct the consultation at a cost of about £4,000. In this case the consultation has been carried out at a very small cost to residents as your Councillors have carried out the work. We have in fact eliminated obvious multiple responses using a simple identification principle, and that this only necessitated eliminating 20 positive responses. This had no effect whatsoever on the result.

4.2.6. Facilities for older people. We are wonderfully lucky to have the rec, the rugby field, young children's space by the village hall - I would rather put additional funds into somewhere for other, older people to go or be entertained - I'd be happy for 6 pence a week for that'.

The Council bought and converted the Old School in Vicarage Lane at very little cost to the community 15 years ago. There is a thriving café there that many older people go to meet

and rooms where other older people meet for other events. There is also the Village Hall with its excellent Luncheon Club and many activities that older people take part in.

- 4.2.7. If there is spare money it should either be given back to the residents of the village or saved in an emergency fund for when a critical need arises’.

The consultation has shown huge support for the purchase of the playing field. An emergency fund exists with money for general emergencies. A sinking fund exists to fund future expensive works that will be needed at the Old School. This will ensure this building does not become a drain on the precept.

- 4.2.8. We need a park. The ground should be put to a use for everyone not just sports people. A nice well planted park, for example, where people can just sit and chat. We have nothing like that in the village yet two playgrounds and two sports fields.

There is a nice piece of parkland with good view in Franks Wood in Eastrip Lane. Details can be found at <https://www.woodlandtrust.org.uk/visiting-woods/wood/5366/franks-wood/>

4.3. Other comments

- 4.3.1. The parish council of late still hasn't identified what is needed for the village as a whole. So as lower speed limits, crossings for children. And yes, whilst they do not fall directly in the CPC remit, they can influence these for the safety of the children going to the school and playgroup. Certainly, no faith in the council unless it is for personal gain.

If there is any evidence of any Parish Councillor acting for personal gain it should be reported to the Solicitor for Wiltshire Council. Contact details can be obtained from the Parish Office in Vicarage Lane.

- 4.3.2. What happens if the Council fails to buy the land for whatever reason.

The precept will be reduced by 5% less expenses incurred.

- 4.3.3. I am retired, have never used or visited these facilities and see no reason why I should support when other issues are more important like community safety, the state of the road to Doncombe Hill and lack of bus services for the village.

Roads are the responsibility of Wiltshire Council. Buses are run by commercial companies, the best way of saving them is to use them. There is an active LINK service in the village which is run by volunteers and takes residents to hospitals, doctor's surgeries, shopping and elsewhere. If you are a driver who could help they would be pleased to hear from you.

- 4.3.4. Pavements in the parish and footpath to Thickwood need repair. These are used by more residents than playing fields would be.

There is a good network of footpaths in the village but clearly there is a need for improvements in some areas. The voluntary Cotswold Wardens carry out a tremendous amount of work clearing paths throughout the year, more volunteers are always welcome.

- 4.3.5. Will there be additional costs in creating the necessary sporting facilities on the field. Who will fund and maintain? Better use would be community allotments.

Yes, there will be extra costs, these are shown in the Business Plan together with the way they will be funded.

Annexes

Annex 1	Business Plan
Annex 2	October 2018 Parish Magazine
Annex 3	November 2018 Parish Magazine
Annex 4	Parish Council website
Annex 5	A4 Poster
Annex 6	A5 Sports Field flyer
Annex 7	Final week flyer



A PROPOSAL TO ACQUIRE ADDITIONAL SPORTS FACILITIES FOR THE COMMUNITY

INTRODUCTION

At its meeting on 16 January 2018, Colerne Parish Council (CPC) approved a proposal to acquire additional sports field facilities. These will be located north of the Recreation ground and the C151 road, immediately adjoining the Colerne Rugby Football Club (CRFC) ground, bordered to the South by the C151, open grassland to the East and a green margin of the Airfield to the North.

BACKGROUND

An open public meeting on 29 November 2016 involving Colerne Parish Council members, representatives of our local sports associations, and other sports-minded members of the community discussed ideas for improving the village's sport facilities. There was a strong feeling that additional playing areas were needed to allow greater capacity and encourage wider uptake of sport in the community and especially young people.

In 2017, the Parish Council was offered 3 acres to the North side of the C151 from the Recreation Ground immediately to the east of the Rugby Cub. The price proposed was £50,000.

In early 2018, the PC adopted the acquisition of additional land for sports as priority and established a working party of Cllrs Brain (GB), Jones (RJ), Jobbins (PJ) and Tonge (DT) to produce a Business Plan.

AIM

The aim of this paper is to inform the Parish of CPC's intentions to:

Fulfil the expressed needs of the sports clubs by purchasing additional land.

Fund the purchase from Parish resource.

Establish a village Sports/Recreation Association.

FINANCIAL ASPECTS

We believe that the land, currently in an agricultural condition, is offered on favourable terms for community use. On first inspection the price, at £16,666 per acre, may seem high when compared to the average price of £8,000 - £10,000 for land in this condition.

However, this is a small land parcel and subject to planning permission for change of use may be better described as amenity or paddock land. As such it commands a premium price. For example, recent purchases in the Parish have ranged in price from: £36,000 for 2.5 acres (£14,400 per acre), £70,000 for 4 acres (£17,500 per acre), and more recently £155,000 for 5 acres (£31,000 per acre). The latter 2 parcels did contain stables, but these examples illustrate the potential asset value to the Parish of the land over that of fulfilling the needs of sporting activities.

Elsewhere in the county, a 6.5 acre parcel near Swindon was recently advertised for £172,250 (£26,500 per acre). Likewise, near Cricklade a 6 acre parcel was advertised for £162,000 (£27,000) per acre.

In comparison the subject parcel at £16,666 per acre represents a reasonable offer. Also, as the land adjoins CRFC and adjacent to existing village sport and recreation land, there is a "marriage value" attached to the land which increases the intrinsic value to the Parish.

The costs associated with this proposal are shown in Annex A.

The Parish Council will finance the acquisition of the new land and its development to sporting condition. It will then rent usage of the land to local sports associations on a basis to be negotiated. CPC will be responsible initially for routine maintenance of the sports pitches to the standards necessary until the creation of a sports association.

FUNDING

At the CPC meeting of 23 January 2018 three financial models were proposed as possible methods of funding:

Seeking grants from Local Authority, Community and Sporting agencies.

Raising the Parish precept to cover full purchase, conversion and maintenance costs.

Using Parish reserves with part repayment over 25 years with one-off rise in precept.

FINDINGS

Grant-Aided

Initial research suggests a plethora of grants available. However, CPC would be unable to bid for these grants in order to purchase land. Therefore, it is considered that grant aid should be left for future development and improvements by either individual sports club or the proposed community sports association.

Staged Payment

This proposal promulgated the purchase of the land over a period of 10 years raising the capital and maintenance costs from an increase in the Parish precept. This made an assumption that the owner would agree to this approach. At this time this approach is not pursued as no such agreement is in place.

Parish Reserve

This detailed model promulgated the raising of costs from a release of £26,000 from CPC reserves with the balance covered from the sinking fund repayable over a period of 25 years from the precept. This approach would need the agreement of the electorate of a one-off rise of 5 percent above inflation in 2019, an additional 6 pence per week per household at band D.

Annex B illustrates: first how CPC proposes to finance the acquisition, second its effects on CPC reserves and third its effect on the annual precept raised from the community.

COMMUNITY SPORTS ASSOCIATION

To assist with this and to ensure ongoing linkage between the CPC and community sports activities it is proposed that a Colerne Community Sports Association (CCSA) or similarly titled organisation should be established. CCSA will become responsible for the management and usage of this asset and facility. While the CPC will have representation on CCSA's committee, its leadership should be outwith CPC and selected from within its component sports clubs, FCCC, Boules, Cricket, and other clubs.

CPC cannot, at this stage, undertake to finance any further developments on the new facility such as pavilion, changing rooms, toilets, additional car parking. Therefore, it will be the responsibility of CCSA to generate these improvements. While difficult to forecast specifically, it is likely that grant monies are available from national, regional, local and sporting authorities for further developments especially those promoting youth sport. The creation of CCSA offers the opportunity to bid for such grants to which CPC is ineligible while remaining to support CCSA otherwise.

CONCLUSION

The purchase of this land will satisfy the expressed needs of CRFC and FCCC and provide the additional pitch area required to cultivate future junior teams. But further: located where it is next to the existing rugby field and surrounded by green space as mentioned above, it gives future opportunity to develop the community's sporting space.

CPC should put this proposal to the community in order to seek its approval. This should be done through a wide programme of publicity (Parish Magazine, social media, notice boards, exhibitions). Members of the community will be offered the opportunity to vote for or against the proposal for a fitter, healthier future and its financing.

Gary Brain
Jim Connor
Paul Jobbins
Robert Jones
Dick Tonge

Annex A – Associated Costs
Annex B – Funding Proposal
Annex C – Precept vs Population

ASSOCIATED COSTS**Analysis of purchase and maintenance costs**

Capital and current costs consist of 3 elements:

- (i) Purchase of land
- (ii) Conversion to sports use
- (iii) Annual maintenance of sports areas.

The first two are “one-off”. The third is recurring.

(i) Purchase of Land

The offered purchase price is £50,000. The attendant solicitor and agent’s fees are estimated to be in the region of £1,200. A total of: £51,200.

(ii) Conversion to Sports Use

The land would need preparing. The approximate cost over a 14 month period to plough, cultivate and pick stone would be: £3,300.

A fence would need to be installed at an approximate cost of; £1,400.

The land would then be seeded for use as playing fields, the approximate cost of which would be £4,600.

Total Item (ii) costs : £9,300.

The resulting turf would not be ready for use for an estimated six months after seeding, i.e. overall approximately 20 months after purchase.

Total capital investment cost [Items (i)+(ii)]: £60,500

(iii) Annual Maintenance

Once established as a playing field it would require ongoing maintenance e.g. routine grass cutting and over-seeding when necessary.

This would need an annual allowance, funded by CPC, of.. **£1,200**

FUNDING PROPOSAL

Funding the purchase of Playing Field**Capital**

1. A paper on the Council's reserves was tabled at the January 2018 Parish Council meeting. It had the purpose of identifying how much of the reserves held could be put into longer term investments without compromising expected cash demands.
2. Once the Parish Council had agreed how much could be invested over what period further recommendations on where these funds might be lodged were to be brought to a subsequent meeting.
3. The issue of funding the purchase of the Playing Fields has been superseded the issue of how such reserves might be invested. £61,000 is needed to purchase the land and other associated costs.
4. A major part of the Council reserves is the sinking fund for the Old School major expenditure, this has accumulated to £93,456 which is not currently attracting interest or capital gain.
5. Interest on five-year bonds are in the order of 4.75%, less than 1.00% annually, higher rates can be obtained, and the indications are that rates will be increasing. Other opportunities that have not yet been fully explored are Government Backed Energy Bonds, bonds issued by the new Municipal Bonds Agency and the Local Government Property Bonds.
6. If money for the playing fields were to be borrowed a 25-year loan rate from the Public Works Loans Board is 4% which includes the repayment of the capital sum.
7. Therefore, it could be argued that it doesn't make sense to incur a 4% cost as compared with the interest gained on an element of the sinking fund at 1%, although other investments could produce greater returns.
8. Section 106 monies are uncertain as it is not known when any Colerne housing developments will take place and if they do whether land for playing fields will be a priority given all the other demands made on planning gain.
9. Should the purchase take place and the Council wished to sell the land at some time in the future then the intrinsic value would be realised subject to the conditions in the purchase agreement. Although this is highly unlikely to happen the point is made that the land is a financial asset for the Community.

10. Proposition on Reserves**The Parish Council releases the following from reserves;**

General Fund	6000
Public Conveniences	3800
Assets	5000
Pavilion	11226
Total	26026
This leaves a gap of	(35000).

The only issue raised at the January meeting concerned the reduction of the Pavilion reserves, any such work would have to be funded from the General Fund.

11. A more detailed analysis of monies held in the Old School sinking fund shows the following annual allocations;

50-year expenditure

Annual allocation	2120	27% of total
Cumulative in reserves	25216	

25-year expenditure

Annual allocation	2810	35% of total
Cumulative in reserves	32709	

12. Proposition on Sinking Fund

100% of the 50-year cumulative reserves and 30% of the 25 year (due to the higher probability that it will be called on) are allocated to give a total of £35028 to the purchase of the playing fields on the basis that;

- a. The allocation is paid back into the sinking fund over 25 years with interest at 1.5%. This is a risk to the sinking fund as we do not know how interest rates will move over the next 25 years.
- b. The effect is;
 - i. Annual capital repayment 1401
 - ii. Annual interest at 1.5% 525
 - iii. Total £1926
- c. Note that the proposition is that the annual interest will not reduce over the 25-year period as the Capital outstanding reduces. This will ensure that the sinking fund is replenished in anticipation of the expensive works in the out years and that should these monies be invested elsewhere a higher rate of interest might be achieved as rates rise and that alternative investments are likely to generate a higher yield.

d. This proposition keeps the money in the Parish without the cost of fees and the like.

13. Revenue

14. The Business Plan for the purchase assumes that ongoing ground maintenance (grass cutting, seeding etc) of the playing fields will be covered by income from leases or by fees from users.
15. However, there will inevitably be other costs including some that may be demanded as part of the planning application that has to be submitted.

16. Proposition on Revenue

17. That an additional £748 is allowed annually for these other costs

18. Impact on the Precept

19. The impact will be a one-off precept rise in 2019 of 5.0% over and above inflation, made up of £1926 financing cost and £748 additional running costs. This is a weekly increase of 6 pence for each household in the Parish.

20. Proposition

21. That this one-off increase should be subject of a referendum along the lines of,

Do you agree that the precept should rise by 6 pence a week over inflation in 2019 to contribute to the £61,000 cost of extending the Playing Fields and additional running costs?

R L Tonge

PRECEPT VS POPULATION

Note

The 'Precept' is the local Council Tax that is paid to the Parish Council.

Community	Precept Band D	Population
Similar size to Colerne		
Box	85.99	3439
Colerne	56.87	2807
Cricklade	178.73	4000
Downton	68.58	2839
Tisbury	78.85	2000
Larger Towns		
Calne	210.31	
Corsham	149.46	
Chippenham	169.13	
Malmesbury	194.59	

NEWS LETTER

COLERNE PARISH COUNCIL



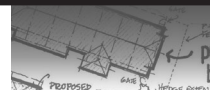
Proposed Parish Council purchase of playing field

have had discussions with other interested parties and received informal advice from Wiltshire Planning. With supportive responses from major stakeholders, the Council is now ready to proceed to the next phase of the purchase — which is to ask for community comments. In particular we will seek your agreement that a small addition to local rates required by the purchase is regarded as acceptable.

Consultation will take place later this month and in October, and will be publicised in the Parish Notice Boards, the Council website, and on Facebook etc. Please look out for these notices and let us have your views when they appear.

As readers noted earlier in the year, the Council has an approved plan to buy a sports-playing area adjacent to the present Rugby Club ground. The proposal is to provide additional sports pitches after conversion of the land from agricultural to recreational/sports ground. The Council believes that in addition to football and rugby, additional sports such as cricket, archery and hockey could be accommodated.

Since we announced this plan we



Main planning decisions

On August 21st the Parish Council supported application (18/07632/FUL) at Windermere, Ogbourne for refurbishment and extension of 1960s bungalow and replacement of garage outbuildings with garden store/home office.

A re-application (18/03271/FUL) to construct a studio within the existing garden to replace a dilapidated shed at 36 Tutton Hill was supported on September 4th with a recommendation to the planning officer that use as living accommodation should be precluded.

VANDALISM AT THE REC

During the summer there have been a number of incidents of vandalism at the recreation ground, pavilion and playground. If you find signs of any damage please report it to the Parish Council (as above); and of course if you see any vandalism taking place please contact the police immediately.



Music Ball soon to be installed with wheelchair accessible trampoline in the play area, thanks to a grant from Wiltshire Community Foundation to Martins Croft Play Area Project.

Martins Croft Play Area



SALT BOX LANE REPAIRS

Over recent weeks workmen have been making significant improvements to the neglected surface of Salt Box Lane. We are pleased that these long-needed improvements are now in hand.

Page 13 of 20



Mark - Parish Steward

A many of you know, Mark Hawkins Wyatt acts as Colerne Parish Steward and together with our own handyman, Derek Bright, makes a great difference to the condition of our roads, hedges and pavements.

Mark's services are provided to Wiltshire Council by Ringway and the Parish Council would be grateful if as many of you as possible would let them know how much you appreciate Mark's support of our community. Please email a brief comment to:

centralhighways@wiltshire.gov.uk



NEWS LETTER

COLERNE PARISH COUNCIL



Next steps on new sports field

The community consultation on our proposal for a new sports field is now underway. As the article on pages **x** and **y** of this Parish Magazine explains, we are seeking your agreement to purchase the land and how that will be financed - the objectives being to provide additional sports pitches for not only football and

rugby, but hopefully new sports such as cricket, archery and hockey, creating wider sporting opportunities for young people and the whole community.

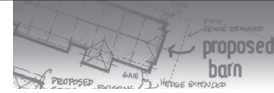
So please let us have your views: either via the cut-out form in the Magazine (page **y**), or on the Council website (see above), via our Survey Monkey questionnaire, or by picking up a paper questionnaire from Colerne News or the Parish Council office. Responses are requested by **Friday 16 November**.

LARGE VEHICLES ON TUTTON HILL

We have made representations to Wiltshire Council about the difficulties caused by excessively large lorries trying to negotiate Tutton Hill. So Wiltshire Council surveyed the number of vehicles using the hill over a seven-day period. This showed that the majority of freight vehicles were 'white vans' (70%), with very few large vehicles, and no articulated lorries. On the basis of this their officers suggested that the present advisory signage, which drivers should see as they leave Box, should be sufficient.

Colerne PC argued strongly that their survey had missed the point, and that it was the infrequent intrusion of larger vehicles, which the survey had not picked up, that was the real problem. We emphasised that at the moment the police could not intervene because there is no formal weight or width restriction. It has been agreed that officers will review the position further and return with a plan to allow us to move forward.

Also on traffic matters, you may have noticed a traffic count being conducted in September on the C151 road. There have been three serious accidents on this road recently and the Highways Department is investigating if there are any common causes for them, including speeding.



Main planning decisions

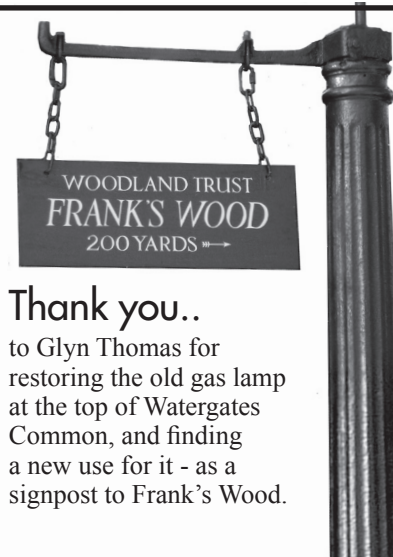
On 18 September the Council reviewed a further revised application (**18/03673/FUL**) in respect of **The Solar**, Market Place. The PC agreed that the revised proposal constituted over-development of a key village-centre site and requested that this application be decided at WC Planning Committee rather than by Planning department. Despite objections from the Parish Council the WC Planning Committee decided to approve the application on 3rd October.

Also on 18 September an application (**18/08432/FUL**) for a single story extension to **Washmeres House** in Washmeres was supported by a majority vote.

Reopening of Colerne Post Office service

POST OFFICE

Readers will have been delighted to see the reopening of the Colerne post office service in Emma Hucklebridge's Colerne News. This results from some sustained campaigning over the months of closure – including at one point some correspondence with the Post Office Chief Executive – and from a lot of commitment and hard work by Emma. Many congratulations to her. The Parish Council encourages all members of the community to use the Colerne News service as much as possible so that its future as a lively and sustainable village asset is assured.



Thank you..
to Glyn Thomas for restoring the old gas lamp at the top of Watergates Common, and finding a new use for it - as a signpost to Frank's Wood.

Opportunity for a new Parish Councillor

We have a vacancy on the Parish Council. If you are interested in being co-opted, please apply by letter or e-mail or contact the Parish Office for more details.

REMEMBRANCE DAY NOVEMBER 11TH



Please note that all routes into Market Place will be closed between 10.30 and 11.30 am on Sunday, November 11th for the Remembrance Day parade and service. Also please be considerate by refraining from parking along The High Street on the 11th.



f Share

[Home](#)

Parish Council

Neighbourhood Plan

Old School

Diary

Village info

Hangar Development

Gardening Club

More

Old School, Vicarage Lane,
Coleme, Wiltshire
SN14 8EL

t: 01225 742207
e: clerk@coolernepo.uk
Clerk: Glenys A Gill
Assistant: Mary Mellitt

Office opening times:
Wednesday & Thursday 10.30am -
12.30pm

Meetings:
Parish Council meetings are held on the 1st and 3rd Tuesday of each month at 7.30pm.

- Members of the public are welcome to attend all meetings



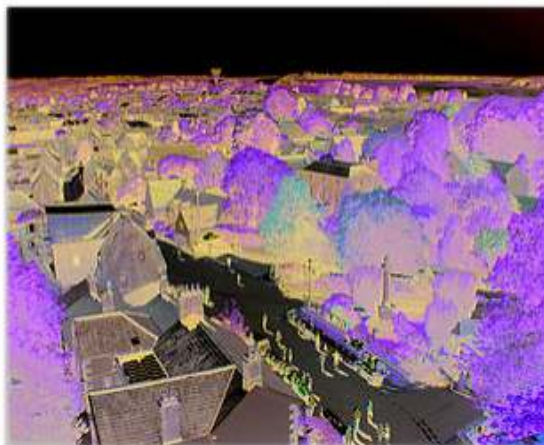
Walking in Colerne

Welcome to Colerne Parish Council

Coleme is a village and civil parish in the Cotswolds Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty, in north Wiltshire. The village is about 3.5 miles (6 km) west of the town of Corsham and 6 miles (10 km) northeast of the city of Bath. It has an elevated and exposed position, 545 feet (166 m) above sea level, and overlooks the Box valley to the south.

The parish includes the hamlets of Eastrip and Thickwood. It is bounded to the west by a stretch of the Fosse Way Roman road, which forms the county boundary with Gloucestershire, and to the east by the Bybrook River. Part of the northern boundary is the Doncombe Brook, a tributary of the Bybrook, and part of the southern boundary is the Lid Brook, another tributary.

Colerne is a parish with a population of about 3000, and has a thriving community with an excellent primary school, medical practices, grocery stores, pubs, village hall, recreation ground and numerous clubs and activities.





COLERNE PARISH COUNCIL

ADDITIONAL SPORTS FACILITIES?

We would like your views on this exciting proposal to purchase an additional sports playing field for the benefit of young people and the whole community.

There's more info and you can vote on the Parish Council website -

www.colerne-pc.gov.uk



or use the voting form in the Parish Magazine.



Please let us have your views by Friday 16th November



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Or fill in the questionnaire overleaf -



Please let us have your views by Friday 16th November



COLERNE PARISH COUNCIL

PROPOSAL TO ACQUIRE ADDITIONAL SPORTS FACILITIES

The easiest way to let us have your views is using this code:

or the link on the Parish Council website at

www.colerne-pc.gov.uk



Welcome to the consultation on the proposed new playing fields

After completion your copy of the questionnaire can be dropped off at the mail box outside the Parish Council office at the Old School in Vicarage Lane or at Colerne News in the High Street.

Does the Council have your support to buy land for additional sport and recreational activities?

Yes ☐

No ☐

Would you be willing to pay an additional 6 pence a week on your 'precept (your local Council Tax) to fund this proposal?

Yes ☐

No ☐

Do you have any comments on this proposal?

Thank you for completing this survey

Please let us have your views by Friday 16th November.

ADDITIONAL SPORTS FACILITIES? YOUR VIEWS MATTER

Read more about it in the Parish Magazine.

PLEASE VOTE

If you haven't already

either

On line using the link on the Parish Council website or

<https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/playingfields>

or

Complete the form overleaf or the one in the Parish Magazine.

Forms can be left in the mailbox outside the Parish Council office in Vicarage Lane or in Colerne News in the High Street.

YOUR VIEWS MATTER

THANK YOU

CLOSING DATE

FRIDAY 16th NOVEMBER



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